

LXXVI.—*A new Vole from Spain.*

By OLDFIELD THOMAS.

AMONG a collection of small mammals obtained by Mr. Martinez de la Escalera in the mountains just north of Madrid there occurs a specimen of a large vole which appears to represent an entirely distinct form, not closely allied to any known European species. I propose to name it in honour of Sr. A. Cabrera Latorre, the well-known mammalogist of the Madrid Museum, to whom we are indebted for much of our knowledge of Spanish mammals.

In addition to the above specimen, an imperfect example of the same species has been in the British Museum since 1853, having been purchased from the dealer Parzudaki in that year. It was said to be from Spain, but the correctness of the locality has hitherto seemed too doubtful to justify its description.

Microtus Cabrerae, sp. n.

Size large, about as in *M. ratticeps* or *nivalis*, therefore decidedly larger than in any of the forms of *arvalis* or *agrestis*. Form thick and stout. Fur long and loose; shorter hairs of back about 11, bristle-hairs about 18 mm. in length. On the rump the bristle-hairs are particularly numerous and long. General colour above coarsely lined olive or hair-brown, though, perhaps, part of the yellowish suffusion in the olive is due to alcoholic discoloration. Under surface not sharply defined, rather lighter, the hairs dark slaty basally, dull yellowish terminally, but this may again have been artificially caused. Feet long and heavy; soles with six clearly defined pads; upper surface of hands and feet grizzled brownish yellow proximally, yellowish white terminally. Tail short, brownish white above, white below.

Skull thickly and heavily built, very different in shape from that of any other European vole; the brain-case peculiarly short and high, not flattened above. Nasals projecting over incisors, so that these are hidden from above; behind, the nasals are less narrowed than usual, the posterior breadth three fourths the anterior; interorbital surface concave mesially above, the low ridges close to its edges in the type, more nearly approaching but not touching each other in the 1853 specimen. Anteorbital foramina open above, their outer walls more distant from each other above than below, instead of being nearly parallel. Palatal foramina large, widely

open, their posterior margins with sharpened edges. Bullae fairly large.

Molars broad and powerful, of a simple type; m^1 and m^2 as usual, not as in *agrestis*; m^3 not unlike Blasius's fig. 190 (" *A. amphibius*," Säug. Deutschl. p. 345), but the posterior internal angle sharper and equal in projection to the other two. M_1 with six closed spaces and an anterior triangle, which has one outer and two inner angles.

Dimensions of the type (measured in the spirit-specimen):—

Head and body 107 mm.; tail 34; hind foot 22; ear 12.

Skull: greatest length 28; basilar length 24.1; zygomatic breadth 16; nasals 9; breadth of brain-case 12.3; height of brain-case from alveolus of m^3 10.2; palatilar length 14.3; diastema 8.5; palatal foramina 5.7; length of upper molar series (crowns) 6.3.

Hab. Sierra de Guadarrama, near Rascafria, N. of Madrid. Altitude about 1000–1300 m.

Type. Subadult male. Collected by Mr. M. de la Escalera.

This remarkable vole is not closely allied to any known species. Prof. Bocage's *Arvicola rozianus*, from Portugal, is a member of the *agrestis* group, while *M. Cabrerae* would seem to be a large aberrant form of the *arvalis* type.

MISCELLANEOUS.

On the Dates of Publication of the Natural History Portions of the 'Encyclopédie Méthodique.' By C. DAVIES SHERBORN and B. B. WOODWARD.

SINCE our previous notes on this subject (Proc. Zool. Soc. 1893, pp. 582–4, and 1899, p. 595) a considerable amount of additional information has come to hand, so altering our first results as to render it desirable to put the whole on record *de novo*.

The existence of two fragmentary sets in the original wrappers has become known to us: one at the Academy of Sciences, Philadelphia, U.S.A., for details concerning which we are very greatly indebted to Mr. E. J. Nolan, of that institution; the other set is in the library of the "Hull Literary and Philosophical Society," and we have to thank Mr. T. Sheppard, of the Hull Museum, for assisting us to obtain detailed information about it. Our other sources of information are set out in the table that follows.

Some few blanks still remain to be filled, despite a patient search through contemporary literature.